

lay siege to either the fortress of Louisbourg (on Cape Breton Island) or Fort Beauséjour. With the fall of Fort Beauséjour to the British in 1755, the French population of Acadia was transported away by British military leaders fearful of French power in the area. Only a few hundred escaped. The expulsion of the Acadians is dramatized in the poem *Evangeline* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

With the defeat of the French and the establishment of British rule in 1763, Acadia was incorporated into the neighbouring colony of Nova Scotia. There was, however, little settlement. A few groups of farmers arrived from England and some settlers migrated there from the American colonies to the south, but the only substantial influx occurred when authorities permitted the expelled Acadians to return in 1764.

This period of slow immigration changed after the American Revolution, when 12 000 United Empire Loyalists fled the United States to find new homes in New Brunswick. It is largely owing to their influence that New Brunswick became a separate colony in 1784.

The early nineteenth century was a prosperous time for New Brunswick. There was a heavy trade in British manufactured goods and American raw materials out of New Brunswick ports, and the wars in Europe stimulated timber production in the

colony. For the next 40 years, forestry remained the major economic activity.

These economic developments were accompanied by changes in the political sphere. New Brunswick resisted to some extent the movement towards responsible government in British North America in the first part of the nineteenth century — New Brunswick was a conservative colony where political advance was a measured process. Individual members of the legislature prided themselves on their “independency” which delayed implementation of responsible government and the resulting centralization in the province.

New Brunswick enjoyed a period of prosperity after Canada signed the Reciprocity Pact with the United States in 1854. Although commercial advances were made during the next ten years, the colony's economic expansion did not keep pace with the rapid expansion taking place in the rest of British North America and the United States.

Initially, political groups advocating union with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island or a federal union with the united Canadas received little or no public support. Soon several considerations arose which brought about a transformation in public opinion. The ending of the Reciprocity Pact, cross-border raids by Fenians (Americans of Irish